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# EDITORIAL.

THAT law of rhythm which pervades the inanimate world seems also to preside over the incoming and outgoing of intellectual stages and commanding personalities. Just prior to the middle of this century there arose a group of geologists of peculiar ability, and for five decades or more they have wielded a most powerful influence in reshaping the doctrines of the science which had been transmitted in relative immaturity from the earlier fathers. For the past two decades they have taken the place of these older masters as the recognized fathers of geology. But we are now called upon to note that the ebb of the rhythm, happily so long delayed, has of late been setting sadly out. The inevitable evening tide of life that so lately bore Dana away has, within the past four months, carried away Daubrée, Pestwich, Whitney and Green, all eminent, if not preeminent, in their special fields. The first three had filled out more than the usual span of active life, eighty-two, eighty-four and seventy-six years respectively, while the last had reached the ripe maturity of sixty-four years. Daubrée was best known for his "*Études Synthétique de Géologie Expérimentale;*" Prestwich for his "*Geology, Chemical, Physical and Stratigraphical;*" Whitney for his "*Metallic Wealth of the United States,*" and Green for his "*Physical Geology;*" though these are but the more conspicuous among their many important treatises. Works and names like these give deep inspiration to those whose careers are yet opening before them, and upon whom it falls to swell the incoming tide that must replace, so far as it may, the outgoing one.

T. C. C.

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A UNIQUE feature of the meeting of the geological section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the great work of Professor Hall on the geology and palæontology of the state of New York. Six decades of continuous service, and that, *nota bene*, official service, with a hopeful outlook on the seventh, is indeed a rare record. No work has been equally influential in the correlation of the palæozoic terranes of America, and none is more worthy of the special honors so appropriately and so happily bestowed.

The synopsis of the papers given in *Science* indicates a programme of much variety and value. The scientific interest seems to have reached its climax in the discussions of Mr. Gilbert bearing upon the history of Niagara Falls, and in the excursion connected therewith. The announcement of a third postglacial outlet for the upper lakes is a matter of wide historical importance. The following is a list of the papers offered:

"Notes on the Artesian Well sunk at Key West, Florida, in 1895." By Edmund Otis Hovey.

"The Hydraulic Gradient of the Main Artesian Basin of the Northwest." By J. E. Todd.

"The True Tuff-beds of the Trias, and the mud enclosures, the underrolling, and the basic pitchstone of the Triassic Traps." By B. K. Emerson.

"Volcanic Ash from the North Shore of Lake Superior." By N. H. Winchell and U. S. Grant.

"The 'Augen-gneiss,' Pegmatite Veins, and Diorite Dikes at Bedford, Westchester Co., N. Y." By Lea McI. Luquer and Heinrich Ries.

"The Tyringham (Mass.) 'Mortise Rock,' and Pseudomorphs of Quartz after Albite." By B. K. Emerson.

"The Succession of the Fossil Faunas in the Hamilton group at Eighteen Mile Creek, N. Y." By Amadeus W. Grabau.

"Development of the Physiography of California; Synopsis of California Stratigraphy." By James Perrin Smith.

"Ancient and Modern Sharks, and the Evolution of the Class." By E. W. Claypole.

"Observations on the Dorsal Shields in the Dinichthyids." By Charles R. Eastman.

"The Discovery of a new Fish Fauna, from the Devonian Rocks of Western New York." By F. K. Mixer.

"Notes on certain Fossil Plants from the Carboniferous of Iowa." By Thomas H. Macbride.

"Interglacial change of course, with gorge erosion, of the St. Croix River, in Minnesota and Wisconsin; The Cuyahoga Preglacial Gorge in Cleveland, Ohio." By Warren Upham.

"A Revision of the Moraines of Minnesota." By J. E. Todd.

"Origin of the High Terrace Deposits of the Monongahela River." By I. C. White.

"The Making of Mammoth Cave." By Horace C. Hovey.

"The Colossal Cavern." By Horace C. Hovey.

"James Hall, Founder of American Stratigraphic Geology." By W J. McGee.

"Professor Hall and the Survey of the Fourth District." By John M. Clarke.

"Sheetflood Erosion." By W J McGee.

"Glacial Flood Deposits in the Chenango Valley." By Albert P. Brigham.

"Origin of Conglomerates." By T. C. Hopkins.

"Origin of Topographic Features in North Carolina." By Collier Cobb.

"The Cretaceous Clay Marl Exposure at Cliffwood, N. J." By Arthur Hollick.

"Post-Cretaceous Grade-Plains in Southern New England." By F. P. Gulliver.

"The Algonquin River." By G. K. Gilbert.

"The Whirlpool-Saint David's Channel." By G. K. Gilbert.

"Profile of the bed of the Niagara in its Gorge." By G. K. Gilbert.

"The Niagara Falls Gorge." By George W. Holley.

"Origin and Age of the Laurentian Lakes and of Niagara Falls." By Warren Upham.

"Correlation of Warren Beaches with Moraines and Outlets in Southeastern Michigan." By F. B. Taylor.

"Notes on the Glacial Succession in Eastern Michigan." By F. B. Taylor.

"The Operations of the Geological Survey of the State of New York." By James Hall.

"The Eocene Stages of Georgia." By Gilbert D. Harris.

"The Origin and Age of the Gypsum Deposits of Kansas." By G. P. Grimsley.

"Geomorphic Notes on Norway." By J. W. Spencer.

"The Slopes of the Drowned Antillean Valleys." By J. W. Spencer.

"Notes on Kansan Drift in Pennsylvania." By E. H. Williams.

"Preliminary Notes on the Columbian Deposits of the Susquehanna." By H. B. Bashore.

"Pre-Cambrian Base-leveling in the Northwestern States." By C. W. Hall.

THE monograph on the North American Camerata by Wachsmuth and Springer, which was reviewed by Charles R. Keyes in the February-March number of the JOURNAL, has not yet been issued and we are informed that it will not probably appear before the close of the year. It is perhaps unnecessary to say that the review was accepted without so much as a question as to the fact of the issuance of the work, and we are assured by the reviewer that he had no doubt, from his understanding with the lamented senior author, of its appearance before the publication of the review. Our common apologies are due for the premature notice, which are only relieved by the reflection that the review was an expression of warm admiration of the work and of a desire to give it a prompt and most cordial recognition. It is due to Mr. Bather, the eminent English student of the Crinoidea, to whose views adverse illusion was made on a certain point, to ask a suspension of judgment on the matter in question until the work shall be read. T. C. C.

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The current season is proving exceptionally fruitful in Arctic exploration. The results of Nansen's most remarkable voyage have much scientific significance, especially his discovery of a deep sea stretching as far east as 133° longitude and as far south as 78° latitude. This, with its attendant phenomena, forms a very important contribution to the general configuration of the crust in the north polar region. Nansen has our warmest felicitations, as he has had all along our fullest sympathy.

The safe return of the gallant Peary with the scientific parties from Cornell University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is also a matter of congratulation. Although unsuccessful in bringing away the great meteorite, they have undoubtedly gathered much valuable data regarding the ethnology and geology of North Greenland. The results of the glacial studies and of the pendulum observations will be awaited with special interest. T. C. C.